REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging each of the documents listed on Forms PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on April 22, 2004. Applicant would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging acceptance of the drawings filed with the present application on January 27, 2004. Applicant would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, as well as receipt of a certified copy of the priority document upon which the claim for foreign priority is based. Finally, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of the subject matter recited in the combination of claim 3, if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over EASWAR et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,825,876) in view of SUGIMORI (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0067548) and SASAI (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,629). Claim 3 was objected-to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-3 will have been amended to eliminate noted informalities. Claims 4-9 will have been added for consideration.

Applicant traverses the outstanding rejection. According to the combination recited in claim 1, raw color data for pixels of three color components (R, G and B), arranged in a pattern of alternating pixels, is read by a raw data reading processor. Full R, G and B planes are generated by interpolation performed by a first interpolation processor. U data and V data (color

difference data) are calculated by a color difference data calculation processor for the pixels of the three color components (R, G and B) using the data of the full R, G and B planes. As explained below, the cited teachings of each of the three documents applied in the Office Action are limited to these features recited in claim 1, and do not disclose the remaining features recited in claim 1.

That is, none of the documents applied in the Office Action discloses, alone or in any proper combination, features of the second interpolation processor or the third interpolation processor recited in claim 1. The Office Action acknowledges that EASWAR does not disclose these features. However, the Office Action asserts that the features of the second interpolation processor are disclosed by SUGIMORI, and that the features of the third interpolation processor are disclosed by SASAI. These assertions in the Office Action are incorrect, and even modification of EASWAR with the cited teachings of SUGIMORI and SASAI would not result in the combination recited in claim 1.

According to the combination recited in claim 1, the operations by the second interpolation processor and the third interpolation processor are performed on the V data and the U data which is calculated by the color difference data calculation processor as set forth above. Further, the U data and the V data calculated by the color difference calculation processor are calculated for the pixels of the three color components (R, G and B) using the data of the full R, G and B planes, and the full R, G and B planes are generated by the first interpolation processor based on the raw alternated color data for pixels of three color components (R, G and B) read by the raw data reading processor.

That is, the second interpolation processor and the third interpolation processor do not interpolate raw data, but interpolate processed data which is obtained using an interpolation. In

contrast to the combination recited in claim 1, the cited portions of SUGIMORI (as described in the Related Background Art) merely disclose the interpolation performed on the raw alternated color data for pixels of three color components (R, G and B), similar to the interpolation performed by the first interpolation processor recited in claim 1. Accordingly, interpolation as described with respect to Figure 11 in the Related Background Art section in SUGIMORI corresponds to steps S2 and S3 of Figure 3 and the formula disclosed at page 10, line 1 of the specification of the present application.

More specifically, the interpolation described with respect to Figure 11 in the Related Background Art in SUGIMORI is initial interpolation used to obtain a missing color component value for a pixel, and the formula for R43 as described with respect to Figure 11 in SUGIMORI is used to obtain a Red value for pixel 43 by interpolation insofar as pixel 43 initially only includes a Blue value according to the alternated color data pattern shown in Figure 11 in SUGIMORI.

Therefore, the formula for R43 shown with respect to Figure 11 in SUGIMORI is not applied to data corresponding to the V data recited in claim 1, and SUGIMORI does not disclose a second interpolation processor as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, modification of EASWAR with the teachings of SUGIMORI would not result in the combination recited in claim 1.

Similarly, the cited disclosure of SASAI merely shows an initial interpolation process, and is not applied to data corresponding to the U data in claim 1. Accordingly, modification of EASWAR with the teachings of SASAI would not result in the combination recited in claim 1.

As described above, modification of EASWAR with the teachings of SUGIMORI and SASAI would not result in the combination recited in pending independent claim 1, at least
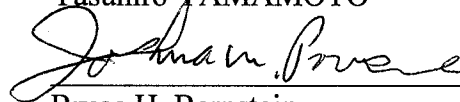
because none of the documents applied in the Office Action disclose a second interpolation processor or a third interpolation processor as recited in the combination of claim 1. Claim 4 is directed to a method performed by a device such as the device recited in claim 1, and claim 7 is directed to a computer readable medium that stores code for performing a method such as the method recited in claim 4. Accordingly, claims 4 and 7 are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 are allowable at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations and including those reasons set forth in the outstanding Office Action with respect to claim 3.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attached thereto.

Should there be questions regarding this paper or the present application, any representative of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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